

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
WORK SESSION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 MINUTES**

**PRESENT** – Trustee Holman, Trustee Jeske, Treasurer Pachman, Supervisor Marcinkowski, Trustee Graham, Trustee Lundell, Clerk Fagan

**ALSO PRESENT** – (4) Four interested parties

**CALL TO ORDER** - Supervisor Marcinkowski called the September 13, 2021 Work Session Meeting to order at 10:00 AM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA** - Motion by Trustee Jeske, second by Trustee Graham, **ADOPTED**, to amend the September 13, 2021 Work Session Township Board Meeting Agenda by removing the DNR presentation duplication in unfinished business and adding discussion about the vaccine passport resolution under new business.  
*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES – motion carried*

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – There were none.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS –**

- a. **Senior Millage update** – Clerk Fagan reported that the Senior Millage funding for vouchers ran out on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The township served approximately 190 seniors with the voucher system, including 144 gift certificates to Barry’s Greenhouse, and 170 Ecology station cards, as well as approximately 126 vouchers for Montague Farmers Market and 124 for the Muskegon Farmer’s Market.
- b. **Drew Rayner (DNR)** is planning to conduct an outreach event on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on 9/15 at 7pm at the Fruitland Township Hall.
- c. **Special Joint Meeting with Whitehall City Council** – The Special Meeting will be at the White Lake Fire Authority, Station 1, tomorrow September 14 at 5:00 PM.
- ~~d. **DNR presentation on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) – 9/17 – 7pm – Twp Hall**~~
- e. **ReLeaf Michigan presentation – What’s Up with My Tree?** This will also take place tomorrow, September 14 at 6:30pm – at the Fruitland Township Hall
- f. **GIS training session with Tom VanBruggen** – Happening September 22 at 10:30am at the Fruitland Township Hall. All are welcome to attend.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

- a. **McMillan Rd end stair removal** – Supervisor Marcinkowski reported that the Contractor is having issues scheduling the work due to an injury.

- b. Scenic Drive Road End** – Supervisor Marcinkowski shared Consumers Energy invoices, information and Resolution for pole, light and power pedestal installation. He also shared updated communication regarding the parking area lease between Twp and Otterbacher/Craft and will be contacting companies to complete a survey before the lease will be signed by all parties.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

- 1. Tom Schmiedeknecht** – Shared some information from ProMed Ambulance regarding their current volume and response time. He explained that their current issue is lack of staff and that they have implemented a number of ideas to try to increase staffing. Tom clarified that since the City of Whitehall joined ProMed they have been trying to keep an ambulance more centrally located along Whitehall Road, but that they have been having trouble because of staffing issues. Funding is provided by insurance and private pay billing, and there is some concern over the payments shrinking in the future. ProMed is a Mercy Health subsidiary, but operates on its own.
- 2. Park and Recreation Commission update** – Commissioner Huch stood to give an update from the Parks and Recreation Commission. He started with a timeline regarding the Friends of Fruitland Trail and asked questions about the organization, their board, their fundraising and how their fundraising is spent. He insinuated that their plan to connect trails from Michigan's Adventure to the Lake Michigan shoreline would be done by creating trails along the creek and that residents would wake up to bulldozers along the creek. When asked about whether the Parks and Recreation Board had voted on a proposal for finishing the 5-Year Master Rec Plan he stated that they had voted and chosen to move forward with Viridis Design Group for almost \$10,000 but he recommended that the board hold off and do more research. He stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission had already approved a Master Plan last October and that it was given to Commissioner Murray and he is not aware of where it is now. Commissioner Huch then left. Clerk Fagan addressed Attorney Even asking if the Fruitland Township Board had any responsibility or right to police a non profit organization operating within the township that is raising money for township property and Attorney Even responded that would not be a responsibility of the board. The board asked if Terrie Hampel would be willing to speak since she was in the audience.

Motion by Trustee Graham, second by Trustee Holman, **ADOPTED**, to suspend from Robert's Rules to talk to Terrie Hampel.

*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES – motion carried*

Terrie Hampel answered many questions about the Friends of Fruitland Trails. She stated that they have applied and received their 501©3 status and the paperwork was filed with the help of an attorney. They have approximately 150 members/supporters and currently have a balance of \$1,630. They have provided

the signage for the park and have started Phase I with permission from the Board. They have an extensive 10 year plan, but they cannot apply for grants on their own and need to work with the township to receive any grants. They also rely on the Parks and Recreation Commission's master plan for those grant applications.

Motion by Trustee Jeske, second by Trustee Graham, **ADOPTED**, to unsuspend from Robert's Rules.

*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES – motion carried*

3. **FEMA Flood Plain Management Ordinance** – Supervisor Marcinkowski shared some changes that are being required by FEMA that must be done quickly. He initially thought the changes could be made without approval because they were “technical” changes with just a few number/letter changes, but the FEMA coordinator asked for more in depth changes after submission. The planning commission will hold a Special Meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> to approve the changes, and the Township Board will need to have a Special Meeting immediately following the Planning Commission meeting to accept the changes.
4. **Request to establish a Citizen's Advisory Committee to evaluate and establish a use for all of the Township's Vacant Property** – The Board discussed previous Citizen's Advisory Committees with Attorney Even and would like to consider a Citizen's Advisory Committee for this purpose. Attorney Even recommended 3-5 people, including at least one member from a township board.
5. **Vaccine Passport Resolution** – Resident Bobbie Allred sent information to the board regarding other municipalities and resolutions that they are passing to ban vaccine passports and any requirements that resident's be required to be vaccinated. The board supports this idea and asked Supervisor Marcinkowski to put together a resolution for Fruitland Township.

**PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Carlet Mitenbuler, 4623 Nestrom – Encouraged the board to research the previous case against the White Lake Ambulance Authority and the current contract with the White Lake Fire Authority in regards to staffing. Also stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission did vote to move forward with the aforementioned company for the Master Plan.

**BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION** – Trustee Graham asked that we maintain the road ends of Murray Road and Lamos Road. She also asked if Ordinance 50 had been sent to Attorney Even and asked that it be sent soon. The board requested copies of the contract with the WLFA be included in the next meeting packet and discussed whether we should continue to offer Zoom as an option at meetings and discussed whether we should allow board members to meet remotely if they are out of town during board meetings. There will be further discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 WORK SESSION MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Jeske, second by Trustee Holman, ***ADOPTED***,  
to adjourn the September 13, 2021 Work Session of the Township  
of Fruitland at 12:00 PM.

*Upon Voice Vote:* **ZAYES – motion carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

Breann Fagan, Clerk  
Township of Fruitland